

August 2, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Breakfast with the Secretary of State

1. Berlin - The Secretary has a plan of political negotiations which he is putting to the Steering Committee this afternoon and to you tomorrow afternoon. This represents real progress, but there remains the question of getting advice from men like Bruce and Kennan. Kennan is coming back with the Secretary of State next week and you suggested that Bruce might simply be recalled to tell us about the British view.

In addition, what is needed is a place in the Department where men with good ideas can plug in; the current plans were made very privately for the Secretary alone. Where is Chip Bohlen, for example? I do not think there is any problem of connecting up our own staff, because the Secretary has been very generous in making Henry Owen available to us, and he is right at the center of all Berlin work in the Department, including the private planning.

2. Montevideo - The Times this morning says that Schlesinger is going to Latin America, and if you should find that the Secretary really has no objection, I must say I think Arthur would do a good job down there. The main point is that if he goes, it should be with the clear approval of the Secretary -- simply to avoid recrimination later. Yes, I know about the Constitution, but still.

3. Southeast Asia - Rostow and Taylor are in close touch with Steeves, but you may want to mention to the Secretary your concern about Steeves' attitude toward intervention. Probably this one ought not to be judged sharply until we get a joint military-political plan, in about two weeks.

4. You may want to talk with the Secretary about his view of the Department's problem of management. On this point, it may be easier to listen than to talk -- and indeed one very important part of these breakfasts is the chance that it gives you to hear directly from your Secretary of State, so much of whose work comes up as cold written staff work.

McG. B.